

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

HISTORY OF THE GROWTH OF THE SPOILS SYSTEM.

Interesting Article by President Lyon G. Tyler, of Williams and Mary College. The Sin to be Visited on the Federalists, and Not on Andrew Jackson.

In the interesting article of L. M. Blackford, on Civil Service Reform, published in your paper of June 8, occurs the following paragraph:

"While the power of removal belonged from the first to the President, appointments, except to Cabinet and Diplomatic positions, as late as 1820 were made for life or during good behavior. Then the four-year tenure was introduced, averredly, if not really, to compel a more systematic closing of accounts on the part of dislocating officers; but not until the accession of President Jackson, in 1833, were the pernicious documents—'The spoils system'—perfected and promulgated. Previous to that time removals from any but strictly political places had been almost unknown—unless a hundred in forty years—and always for cause."

We respectfully concur with Mr. Blackford in his opinions of the evils of the "spoils system." I cannot agree with him in the history of the matter, and yet I cannot hold him responsible for the error of visiting the sin on Andrew Jackson, who appears to have been the sincere effort of New England to shift the blame in that direction, and the charge of Jackson's responsibility for the evil has been reiterated and reiterated until it has made its impression even in the South. It is a fact, however, a dismal thing to see the pernicious effects of the natural consequences of this of which has prompted this course. It is easily shown that the "spoils system" began at a much earlier period than Jackson's administration; that in fact, it began when the government, in 1801, was constituted of the New England States. But while proposing to give some facts conclusive of this, it is not my intention to vindicate Andrew Jackson from the blame which justly attaches to him, that he adopted and even embraced the pernicious system.

The Southern States owe no favors to his memory, for he, more than any other man, through his famous proclamation against a sister State, doomed to desolation by unjust taxation, left posterity disgraced and disgraced by the principles of consolidation which tyrannized over the South for so many years after the war. But it is history now—and that history points elsewhere than to Andrew Jackson's administration for the origin of the "spoils system."

PATRONAGE AND SPOILS.

Mr. Blackford correctly holds that the spoils system and patronage are united. Indeed, they could not be more intimately connected than to bear the stamp of cause and effect. Patronage is the cause and the spoils system the effect. And who were first the friends of patronage in our government? Turn to the great speech of William B. Giles on the judiciary question in 1819, and there you will find the definition of the language of which he was capable, the full answer to the question. The Federalists, who had the control of the government during the first twelve years whose record is well known, were in New England, a crafty spoils machine, and the constancy and assiduity with which they pursued the policy finds no parallel in our history, save in the plunder of the Southern States after the war by the carpet-baggers—the political descendants of the New England Federalists, "the spoils," etc.

THE PRESS THROTTLED.

The press was throttled by the sedition act and its editors were sent to Virginia by numerous appointments to offices in Virginia.

The Federalists in possession of the state offices kept pace with the national government. In New England the town politics had been a long source of spoils and corruption, and Mr. Adams, of Massachusetts, was a member of the Federalists, and to the base character of that party who got into the legislature of that State by the dirtiest means.

In New York, according to Grayson, the Federalists had been upholding tradition on the head of Governor Clinton, who represented the Republican party, and the American party, and the Union party, and the cause of the country, and the whole world, and he was capable, the full answer to the question. The Federalists, who had the control of the government during the first twelve years whose record is well known, were in New England, a crafty spoils machine, and the constancy and assiduity with which they pursued the policy finds no parallel in our history, save in the plunder of the Southern States after the war by the carpet-baggers—the political descendants of the New England Federalists, "the spoils," etc.

END AS A MODEL.

The adoption of the Federal Constitution in 1788 was a triumph for this party, as it gave the means for the full development of the principle which was so dear to them. Assuming an apprehension of the States, they urged the expediency of infusing into the government, by legislation, many artificial powers, and the result was the construction of the constitution. England was taken as the model, and the Federal party became an English party, as far as politics, affection, and even dress could make it.

HA Vast range of patronage had been built up in that country, and in the administration of its rich and powerful interests the English civil policy reigned in every form of corruption. Commissions, offices and posts of honor were given to the best bidders, and the wholesale buyers of votes was the ordinary course of the election of members from an office in Parliament to the humblest position in a shire. The great features of the English Church are expected to效仿, and it is rumored that Stanley's five companions on his last expedition will not be groomsman. The honeymoon is to be spent in Hampshire, at Melchet Court, near Romsey, which Lady Louisa Ashtonbury has placed at the disposal of the happy couple.

PRESIDENT ADAMS' COURSE.

As the emanation of his administration approached, Adams made his efforts at retaining the patronage of the government.

Having had the first filling of the offices and early "excluded," as Mr. Jefferson says, "every shade of opinion which was not theirs," he and the Federalists had no occasion to make any new friends, and their influence was nil.

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Stanley, who is a clever artist, her subject being painting, the ranged London street Arabs in their various games and romps. How often, while at work on his pictures, she must have thought of Stanley forcing his way through the dense throng of Arabs, and fighting with the Arabs who infest it?

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